Special category status for Orissa

1069. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government and all political parties have been demanding to declare Orissa as a special category State;

(b) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister, while visiting Orissa, assured the Chief Minister of the State to consider the demand; and

(c) whether the highest percentage of people are living Below Poverty Line in the State and the State Government's financial position is considered very alarming, as a result of which the State Government is not able to spend the Central assistance including the assistance as relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa and several political parties have demanded to declare Orissa as a Special Catagory State.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Yes Sir, Orissa has the highest percentage of people below the proverty line and the State is passing through a difficult financial situation. Like many other States, the utilization of some components of Central assistance is not hundred per cent.

Pilot Project of National Commission on Population

1070. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Population is launching pilot projects to provide maternal, child health and -contraception services through public/private partnership in high growth areas;

(b) if so, the details of the districts in which these projects are going to be launched in various States, State-wise;